

Sub  
AS

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a specimen setting board; and

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an illumination unit for illuminating a specimen with the light;

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said shield element is disposed in a position of an entrance pupil or in the vicinity of this entrance pupil of said high-magnification objective lens as said

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said shield element is disposed in a position conjugate to the entrance pupil or in the vicinity of this entrance pupil of said objective lens when said zoom lens exhibits the lowest magnification.

4. A stereomicroscope according to claim 1, wherein

y. O Dec. 15, 2000 said illumination unit includes a <sup>collector</sup> ~~third condenser~~ lens disposed between said light source and said shield element, and

y. O Dec. 15, 2000 said <sup>collector</sup> ~~third condenser~~ lens forms an image of said light source in a position of said shield element.

5. A stereomicroscope according to claim 1, wherein a reflecting element for bending the optical axis is disposed in the position of said shield element of said illumination unit, and

said shield element has a cover member for covering a part of a reflecting surface of said reflecting element.

6. A stereomicroscope according to claim 5, wherein said shield element includes a mechanism for increasing and decreasing a covered area of the reflecting surface by feeding out and drawing in said cover member above the reflective surface in order to adjust a quantity of the light beam to be cut off.

7. A stereomicroscope according to claim 4, wherein a reflecting element for bending the optical axis is disposed between said shield element and said first or second condenser lens.

8. A stereomicroscope according to claim 4, wherein said shield element includes a stretchable light shield

member and a mechanism for stretching and contracting said light shield member.

9. A stereomicroscope according to claim 1, wherein  
5 a converging angle of the light beam converged by said second condenser lens is larger than an aperture angle of said high-magnification objective lens.

10. A stereomicroscope according to claim 5, wherein  
10 a reflectance of a front end portion of said cover member is larger than reflectances of other portions thereof.

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